The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Vice President's Report

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CZSG marches forward with new innovations. *The Canal Zone Philatelist* came out with its first color issue during the 3rd Quarter of 2008. It joins a growing list of publications now using color, and adds a valuable dimension.

The Web Site continues to grow in size and value to CZ collectors. There are now six exciting and informative exhibits that can be examined at leisure – something not readily done at a stamp show.

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See page 2 for Meeting Announcements

2009 CZSG Mail Sale

Consignments for the 36th CZSG Mail Sale should be sent to arrive between July 15th and September 1st. An inventory list must accompany consignments. Certificates are required for Scott No. 1, 2, 3, and 15.

The Mail Sale Manager reserves the right not to include any item submitted, especially damaged or poor quality examples of lower value stamps, postal stationery, and covers. If sending odd-sized items or a large number of items, please send an inventory in advance.

Ship material registered or insured to:

Richard D. Bates
Manager, CZSG Mail Sale
PO Box 40583, Palisades Station
Washington, DC 20016-0583

PSN Cover Showing First Day of Use for Two Air Mail Letter Rates

By Paul Ammons

The cover illustrated in Fig. 1 is of interest for several reasons. First, it is franked with two second (first definitive) air mail series stamps that have perforated initials PSN (Pacific Steam Navigation), making it one of fewer than ten PSN covers reported franked with stamps from this series. Second, it is postmarked October 1, 1946, a first day of use for two air mail letter rates.

From April 1, 1945 to September 30, 1946, the combination air mail letter rate from the Canal Zone to New Zealand was 10c per half ounce air mail to the U.S. plus 70c per half ounce via Trans-Pacific air mail. On October 1, 1946, the rate on both legs was reduced. The air mail letter rate to the U.S. was reduced to 5c per ounce. The Trans-Pacific air mail letter rate was reduced to 25c per half ounce. Thus, the combination rate for a one ounce air mail letter was reduced from $1.60 to $0.55. The cover is over-paid by 5c, possibly because the sender was aware of the significantly reduced Trans-Pacific air mail letter rate, but not of the halving of the air mail letter rate to the U.S.



Fig. 1 Cover to New Zealand franked with two PSN stamps

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The Canal Zone Philatelist
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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from:

CZSG Pub. Office - Richard F. Murphy
1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt Pleasant, SC 29466
richardmurphy167@gmail.com

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are prefered for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

The following references occur often in this journal and may be abbreviated as shown particularly when referred to several times.

CZ Stamps=Canal Zone Stamps, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP=The Canal Zone Philatelist

Entwistle=The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition, by Lawson P. Enwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992

French=Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979.

Scott=Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps, current edition.

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60193

DUES ARE DUE!

We start 2009 with 641 active members; that includes the 91 members who have not paid their dues yet. Hopefully, you have received your 2009 dues notice by now. The dues are STILL $8.00 for regular membership. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so; it will save me from sending out reminder notices. You may even want to consider paying a year or two in advance and save yourself time and postage. Contributing members who pay at least $15 and Sustaining members who pay at least $25 will be recognized in the Third Quarter Philatelist.

New Members

2585 Richard Conseur, CT
2588 Alfredo Frohlich, FL
2589 Ted A. Oliveira, FL
2590 Jack Segal, WA
2591 Gregg Thomas, MD
2592 Mickey W. Fenn, IN
2593 Robert Motelow, NY
2594 Roger D. Jordan, MI

Address Changes

0312 Rudy J. Vidaurri, TX
0758 Frank Servas, Jr., PA
1071 Delmas G. Parker, Jr., TX
1157 Prof. David C. Kurtz, VT
1918 John H. Beale, Jr., CA
1965 Joseph F. Serota, M.D., CO
2119 Rev. Peter W. F. Adgie, CO
2320 Haydon D. Gaines, CA
2446 Lawrence J. Casey, OR
2481 Alta B. Williams, FL

Reinstated Members

none

Resigned Members

1039 James S. Gerson
1932 Roger L. Listwan
2099 Malcolm C. Goodwin
2271 Phillip R. Beutel
2387 William L. Porteous
2388 Robert Beall
2459 Kenneth F. Goss
2530 John A. Gehrig
2578 Alex Hrabko

Deceased Members

2261 William F. Penney

Meeting Announcement
At WESTPEX
SanFrancisco Airport Marriott Hotel
Burlingame, CA
The 40th consecutive annual CZSG meeting
will be held at WESTPEX
on Saturday, April 25, 2009
starting at 1:00 p.m. sharp!

Meeting Announcement
At the Northeast Federation
PHILATELIC SHOW 2009
Boxborough MA
May 1-3, 2009
CZSG meeting on May 2nd.
For further information, see the show website
http://www.nefed.org/
or contact Alan Bentz
BHS44@comcast.net

Meeting Announcement
At NOJEX 2009
Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel and Exhibition Center in Secaucus, NJ
May 22-24, 2009
CZSG Meeting
from 1 to 3 PM
Saturday, May 23, 2009
For further information, see the show website
http://www.nojex.org/
or contact Mike Demski at
KEARNEY511@aol.com

Meeting Announcement
At PIPEX 2009
Portland, OR
May 22-24, 2009
CZSG Meeting at noon
Sunday, May 24, 2009
Further information about the show is available at the website of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, http://www.nwfedstamps.org/index.html or from Ron Sumner at rmsumner1@juno.com, 503-774-2344.

Recruit a New CZSG Member

New W.W. II Canal Zone Civil Censor Hand Stamp
by Paul Ammons

A recently documented, two-line red-violet / magenta civil censor hand stamp now believed to have been applied to Official Business covers by the Balboa censor station in February 1942 is currently being researched. The hand stamp is not listed in *Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II* by Wilfred N. Broderick and L. Dann Mayo published jointly by the Civil Censorship Study Group and the War Cover Club (now named Military Postal History Society) in 1980 nor mentioned in Harry Metzler's *World War II Civil Censorship in the Canal Zone* (*CZP* 60:17, 19-21). Figure 1 shows one of the three covers, all Official



Fig. 1 Diablo Heights cover postmarked February 3, 1942

Business, postmarked in the first few days of February 1942 and franked by stamps overprinted Official Canal Zone, now known with this new censor hand stamp (Fig. 2) which is similar to, but significantly different from, one identified as

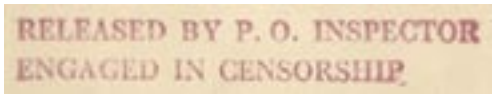


Fig. 2 Censor mark B&M S2.9 (newly assigned number)

being used in December 1941 in San Antonio, Texas (Fig. 3.) The hand stamp may have been used for only three weeks



Fig. 3 San Antonio, TX censor hand stamp B&M S2.5

and was superseded by a round, magenta censor hand stamp with the same wording (Fig. 4) believed to have been used by the Balboa censor station from February to July 1942.



Fig. 4 Replacement censor hand stamp B&M C2.1

It is believed that Official Business mail was considered 'privileged mail' not subject to censorship prior to 1 February 1942. A cover from January 1942 without censor marking is



Fig. 5 Official Mail cover without censor marking from early 1942

shown in Fig. 5. To determine the dates of use of this new civil censor hand stamp B&M S2.9, I need the assistance of anyone who may have examples in their collections. Of particular interest is whether this new censor hand stamp was used prior to, or after, February 1942 and whether it was applied to anything other than Official Business mail. To determine better the changeover, I would also like to know of any use of the superseding circular hand stamp prior to



Fig. 6 Early use of replacement hand stamp

February 21, 1942 (Fig. 6). Please contact me by mail at P.O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841 or by email at pammons@tamu.edu if you can provide any information on additional usages of, or insight into, this new civil censor hand stamp or its successor.



Dick Bates, Jim Beall, Gary Weiss, Paul Ammons, Bob Karrer

CZSG Regional Meeting
APS AmeriStamp Expo/TEXPEX
Arlington, TX, February 21, 2009

Though the number of CZSG members at the meeting was not large, the discussion that took place was very lively. The Handbook on Type III Overprints by Tom Brougham distributed recently to members was very well received.

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Book Review
by John E. Findling

Parker, Matthew. *Panama Fever: The Epic Story of One of the Greatest Human Achievements of All Time: the Building of the Panama Canal*. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Panama Fever is a comprehensive history of the American acquisition of the Panama Canal Zone and the building of the canal, based on a wide variety of archival sources and published sources. It is probably the best study since David McCullough's *The Path Between the Seas*, published some thirty years ago.

The phrase "Panama Fever" aptly describes the almost universal excitement that the idea of an isthmian canal generated among Americans of all social and economic classes at the turn of the twentieth century. And the excitement was certainly justified given the massive size of the project and the array of unprecedented technological, financial, and medical challenges the builders faced.

Parker takes readers back to the exploration of Panama by Balboa in the early sixteenth century and spends time describing the isthmus as a transit point in the mid-nineteenth century. This gives life and historical context to those of us who collect "via Panama" covers.

After discussing the failed efforts of Ferdinand de Lesseps to build a French canal in the 1880s, Parker deals in considerable depth with the "Battle of the Routes," the political struggle in the United States between those who advocated a Nicaragua Canal and those who preferred a Panama route. Among the issues he covers is the dramatic presentation of a Nicaraguan stamp portraying a smoking volcano to members of Congress by Panamanian lobbyists, a trick that helped swing the vote to the Panama route.

The second half of the book covers the monumental effort to build the canal, including the control of yellow fever, the great engineering feats, and the efforts of thousands of British West Indians, the unsung heroes of the whole enterprise. They worked under the most difficult conditions for a pittance and yet, by and large, Parker reports, they were "sober, industrious, and religious." Without them, the canal would never have been built.

Although one might have wished that Parker had made mention of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition that celebrated the completion of the canal (and included some interesting philatelic aspects), *Panama Fever* is an excellent and highly readable narrative history of the event that made our collecting specialty possible.

Canal Zone Postal Card UX4 (S11) Variety
by Irwin Gibbs, Postal Stationery Editor

In their September 2008 auction Spink Shreves listed as lot 1836 a UX2 1c postal card "Head and Canal Zone overprint only" (Fig. 1).

The overprint is actually "Head and Canal Zone overprint only" UX4 (S11) printed by the American Bank Note Co. UX2 was printed by the Hamilton Bank Note Co. Although the appearance is similar, the heads are completely different.

In 1912 Panama changed suppliers from the Hamilton Bank Note Co. to the American Bank Note Co. Since Panama had no need for a 1c postal card, it was necessary for the American Bank Note Company to design a 1c stamp for the postal card.

It was to be similar to the Hamilton card with the words "CANAL ZONE" incorporated into the vignette. The new postal card UX4 (S10 and S11) was issued in early 1913.

In 1916 the American Bank Note Company printed a 1c envelope U1 which is similar to the UX4 variety. However the words "CANAL ZONE" read up on the envelope (U1a) shown in Fig. 2 and down on the postcard shown in Fig. 1.

The auctioned postcard has the text printing missing as well as the green frame. Although not verified it may be a proof since the card material is not identical to known S11 postcards. For the present it will be considered a S11 variety.



Fig. 1 Head and text from S11



Fig. 2 Head and text from U1a

Auctions
by Jim Crumpacker

The fourth calendar quarter, Oct. 1-Dec.31, 2008, was for Canal Zone philately characterized more by highly unusual offerings rather than any great number of lots. Some of these, items from the George Brett estate and thus unseen for a good half century, sold quite nicely. Very uncommon covers and postal stationery were the stars.

The first dollar amount shown below represents the total selling price of hammer plus commission and is followed in parentheses by the catalog value from the *2008 Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

1, F-VF on VF ppc Crist. 6/30/04 to Colon $1287 ($1650) RegencySuperior

4-8, all F or better on F ppc Crist. 10/14/04 to Switzerland $614 ($n/a) RegencySuperior

4(strip of 6), 5(2) and 6(2) all F or better on VF cover Crist. 11/8/04 to Boston $748 RA Siegel

22, F and 24, F both with Bliss Type A POSTAGE DUE overprint on F sl. reduced cover to Pedro Miguel from Grenada 2/10/08 w/ Grenada 1 pence stamp, all proper marks $1840 ($n/a) RA Siegel

26, F w/ Bliss Type A POSTAGE DUE overprint on F cover to Pedro Miguel from Grenada 2/17/08 w/ Grenada 1 pence stamp and all appropriate marks $2300 ($n/a) RA Siegel

80, F-VF on F OB cover Crist. 11/13/24 to Crist. $380 ($500) RegencySuperior

91a, ZONE only, OG, NH, VF in margin pair with 91c ZONE CANAL OG, H, F $1380 ($1500) Bennett

C2, OG, NH, VF+ $138 ($115) Bennett

J17, OG, NH, XF $230 ($50) Bennett

UF1a (UPSS R3) mint entire VF $978 ($1300) Bennett

UX5 (UPSS S12) mint entire VF $731 ($1100) RegencySuperior

UX6 (UPSS S13) mint entire VF, pn's $497 ($1050) RegencySuperior

117P1, large die proof on full card, VF $374 ($475) Bennett

The names and addresses of the auction houses which offered these lots are shown below.

Matthew Bennett International
200 Rector Place, Suite 41-D
New York, NY 10280

RegencySuperior
PO Box 8277
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

Robert A. Siegel
Auction Galleries, Inc.
60 East 56th St., 4th Floor
New York, NY10022

George Brett Estate Sales

Large Lots - HR Harmer auction – December 12, 2008
Small Lots - Jacques Schiff auction – December 3-4, 2008

Bob Karrer has provided a summary of the recent sale of large lots of Canal Zone material from the George Brett estate at an H.R. Harmer (5 Francis Clarke Circle, Bethel, CT 06801) sale on December 12, 2008. The material was in huge lots that were not lotted well and there was much overlap. Duplication was present in huge numbers, for example Miraflores and other cancellations that were formerly scarce abounded on covers without stamps from official correspondence. Any thought of such material being rare goes out the window. Vast quantities of goodies were mixed up with junk. There was very active floor and mail/phone bidding. Those present speculated on how the buyers would cover the cost of the multiple duplicates in each lot. Many are likely to appear on eBay in the near future.

The Canal Zone material appeared in six large lots. The lot descriptions, followed by the auctioneer's estimate and the price at which each lot sold (before buyer's premium) are listed below.

TREMENDOUS CANAL ZONE STATIONERY, MINT & USED An absolute thrilling opportunity to own an extremely valuable collection of quality and quantity, so many better items starting with the first issues (U1 AND UX1) onward, postally used and most issues mint or unused, seeing #U3-4, several #U5s, **#U14 Mint VF (x 2), #U15 Mint VF (x 30)**, as well as countless #U1-2, #U6-7, #U8-9 Mint & Used, with special cancellations, and interesting usages, destinations to and from officials, numbering several thousand in 2 large cartons, condition generally F-VF overall, **and many issues are still in their original Post Office packaging including special wax-coated boxes!, mostly unchecked by us for varieties.**

Est $8,000-12,000 SOLD for $10,500

PROFOUND CANAL ZONE COVER ESTATE BALANCE Thousands of better covers in three large cartons from a world-class philatelist who was stationed in C.Z. during the war, including military, cacheted, official covers (a whole carton), over two cartons of the early Balboa and Cordoba overprints of 1906//1918 "CANAL ZONE" reading up or down (well over 3000 covers) all unchecked for scarce types or listed/unlisted errors! **noticed some better Air Mail covers and mixed frankings**, plenty of potential for a Canal Zone Study Group! **From the George W. Brett Estate**

Est $8,000-10,000 SOLD for $28,000

POWERFUL CANAL ZONE AIRMAIL COVER ESTATE A large carton full of better airmail covers totaling about 1300 or more, all early types, **with a mounted collection with AAMS flight numbers**, numerous SCADTA multi-frankings, hundreds of covers franked with 1925-28 regular issues as well as #C1-5s, an official US Mail photostat of Charles Lindbergh **1929 Sikorsky Amphibian plane** Feb 4-6th, 1929 trip, U.S. Army Inspection Flight round trip March 1928 and other experimental flights, **CRASH COVERS: "Recovered from plane NC 15065 Aug 3, 1937 Cristobal, C.Z." and a Postmaster signed "PM Corozal rec'd under cover at Cristobal, 12/24/34,"** mostly F-VF, tremendous value with many possibilities for an advanced study because of its intact nature

Est $4,000-6,000 SOLD for $5,250

UNIQUE & VALUABLE CANAL ZONE FIRST DAY COVER ESTATE From the estate of George W. Brett who was stationed in the C.Z. during WW II, this 2-carton lot **includes many early FDCs from the 1920s**, saw #43 (x 2), several of #96, spotted #C14 (x 3), many 1924-28 definitive FDCs, hundreds of the 1940s through the end, dozens of triple-digit covers, **possible discoveries in the overprint varieties likely**, a thrilling group for the investor or dealer,

Est $3,000-5,000 SOLD for $3,250

QUALITY CANAL ZONE PICTURE POSTCARD LOT, EARLY 20TH CENTURY From the estate of a world-renowned philatelist stationed in the Canal Zone during WW II, several hundred mainly used cards including mostly 1920 or earlier borderless cards, many in VF condition, noticed dozens of better street, rail scenes, Post Office & other buildings, **President Teddy Roosevelt on observation train**, **SCADTA posted cards**, several VF leather cards , Real Photos, Pretty Girls, automobile/humor cards, **several scarce Black Humor cards, early "3-D" special effect card (President U.S. Grant)**, overprinted stamps unchecked for varieties (most were franked with 1c Map types (#16) or 1c Balboa types), Overall, a F-VF lot.

Est $1,500-2,000 SOLD for $2,600

INCREDIBLE CANAL ZONE 1906//1920 USED ON-PAPER CARTON probably the largest accumulation of **multiple thousands of used 1 cent and 2 cent Balboa-Cordoba circa 1906/1921 issues**, closely cropped, totally unchecked for [sic] all the minor and major error types, from many postal archives including official departments like the Panama R.R., and many in the States, a tremendous opportunity to go through a "virgin" lot from a major holding.

Est $750-1,000 SOLD for $2,300

In addition, the Jacques Schiff auction (15 Main St., Ridgefild Park, NJ 07660-1696) in early December incorporated individual and small group lots, including unusual varieties. Some of these lots also had considerable duplication. A block of 9 of No. 116 with a full offset of the CANAL ZONE overprint on the gum side realized $30, and a block of 4 of No. 38 one stamp with a dramatically displaced CANAL realized $70, both before the 15% buyer's commission. The Schiff firm plans further offerings from the Brett estate in the near future.

NPM Finding Guide

Thomas Lera, Winston M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, has provided the web address for the Finding Guide for the Canal Zone Files at the National Postal Museum Library. This finding aid is for the Panama Canal Zone Post Office collection that consists of correspondence, newspaper and journal articles, government documents, stamp design files, photographs and other illustrations. The files cover the history of the Panama Canal Zone Post Office from 1904 to 1999.

http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/index.html

Apolinary Bienkowski

by Richard D. Bates

An early figure in the Canal Zone who had significant impact on Canal Zone philately was Apolinary Bienkowski, a newsdealer who established the Panama Railroad News Agency.

He was the maker of dozens of first series covers, generally addressed to himself as news agent at various stops along the railroad. In fact, he is a major source of genuine first series covers. An example is shown in Fig. 1, in his own hand addressed to himself as P.R.R News Agent at Gorgona sent from Culebra.

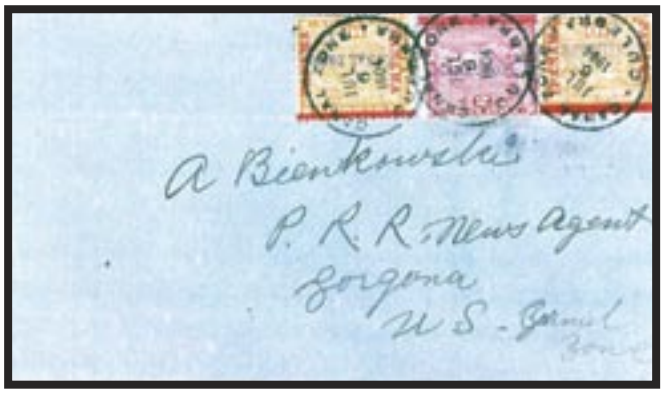


Fig. 1 First series cover addressed to A. Bienkowski

Careful examination of this cover shows that one of the 10c stamps is the "colon between right PANAMA and the bar" variety.

In fact, Mr. Bienkowski seemed to have extraordinary luck in finding interesting varieties and using them on cover. Figure 2 shows another first series cover with an example of Scott No. 3a, the 10c value with CANAL ZONE inverted, sent from Gorgona to Culebra.



Fig. 2 Cover with Scott No. 3a addressed to Bienkowski

Unfortunately, Mr. Bienkowski's contributions to Canal Zone philately were cut short in 1909. The *Canal Record* on June 9, 1909 reported his untimely passing.

Suicide of A. Bienkowski

Apolinary Bienkowski fatally shot himself in the mouth, Sunday night, June 6, in a coach on the road between Panama and Balboa. Mr. Bienkowski had recently complained of feeling mentally depressed, and this condition is believed to have been responsible for his suicide. He was 43 years of age, unmarried, and was a naturalized American citizen, having been born in Warsaw, Poland, where his relatives still reside. He emigrated to the United States in the 80's, and came to the Isthmus about seven years ago, where he engaged in business as a news-dealer, subsequently establishing the Panama Railroad News Agency. He was a member of Ancon court, No. 7, Independent Order of Panamanian Kangaroos and that order will have charge of the funeral ceremonies which will be held from the Ancon lodge hall on Sunday, June 13, at 3 p.m. The social session of Ancon court, No. 7, which was to be on Friday evening, June 11, has been postponed as a mark of respect.

Editorial

Richard D. Bates and Gary Weiss

What is it?

After a recent discussion with several members, the *CZP* will be trying to include articles about Canal Zone personalities: historical figures, those of philatelic importance, and other luminaries the reader may find interesting. Readers are encouraged to suggest names, or even better, to provide articles on such personalities.

That is one reason for choosing Apolinary Bienkowski to include in this issue, as we can highlight some of the early Canal Zone covers he prepared. But there is one additional cover to include that serves to kick off what I hope will be a series of articles in which Gary and I will exchange differing viewpoints involved in identifying unusual items and varieties.

The cover illustrated in Fig. 1 is another of the first series covers prepared by Bienkowski and sent to himself. It seems innocent enough, with 4 copies of No. 2 each tied with an Empire cds.



Fig. 1 Bienkowski cover with four copies of No. 1



Fig. 2 No. 2 on cover in Fig. 1 with part of extra CANAL ZONE hand stamp

continued page 8

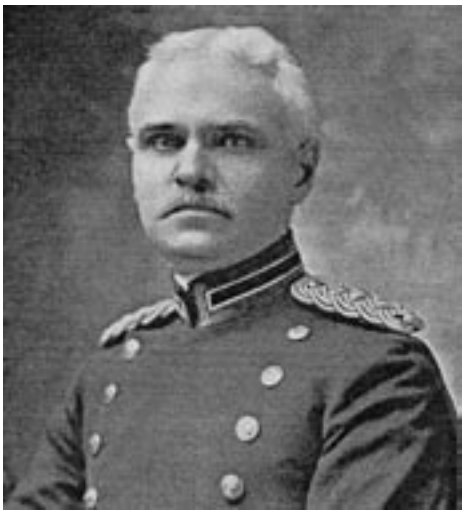




Fig. 1 Scott No. 106



Fig. 2 Scott No. 117

Maj. Gen. George Washington Goethals
by Irwin J. Gibbs

The Canal Zone Postal Service in 1928 authorized 1c and 2c stamps. The 2c stamp depicting Major General Goethals is shown in Fig. 1; it was in use from 1928 to 1949 when it was replaced by the 2c Roosevelt stamp, Scott No. 138. The stamp was placed on sale October 1, 1928, and was the first stamp of the Permanent Series. It was also overprinted to create two of the early Canal Zone Airmail stamps, Scott Nos. C3 and C5. General Goethals also appeared on Scott No. 117, the 3c definitive issued in 1934, and illustrated in Fig. 2. Both basic Goethals stamps were issued in both sheet and booklet pane formats and the 3c was also issued in coil format in 1960. (Scott No. 153).

General Goethals was born June 29, 1858, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated second in his class from West Point in 1880. His service branch was the Army Corps of Engineers. From 1880 to 1903 he had several assignments, mostly involving canals and locks. From 1903 to 1907 he served on the General Staff of the U.S. Army. On February 18, 1907, President Roosevelt appointed Colonel Goethals to the staff of the Isthmian Canal Commission. He became Chief Engineer replacing the popular John F. Stevens. On April 1, 1907, he was appointed Chairman of the ICC and served both as Chairman and Chief Engineer until 1914. As Chief Engineer he was in charge of the Department of Construction and Engineering which embraced all construction work on the Isthmus; and as Chairman of the Commission he supervised all departments not connected with the construction and engineering. These included the Department of Civil Administration and the Department of Sanitation, and he also was in charge of accounting, disbursing of funds, as well as the Quartermaster and Substance Departments.

General Goethals was cool in manner, capable, very correct; he was a man of natural dignity and rigorously high demanding standards. He was regarded by his peers as somewhat aloof and a workaholic. He had complete authority over all phases of the project and reported only to the Secretary of War and the President.

In 1914 President Wilson appointed General Goethals as the first governor of the Panama Canal Company. During World War I he was made Quartermaster General in charge of procurement, transport and storage of all supplies for the Army.

General Goethals died of cancer in 1928 and is buried at West Point.

References:
Canal Zone Stamps - Plass, Brewster, Salz 1986
The Path Between the Seas - David McCullough 1977
The Makers of the Panama Canal - F.E. Jackson 1911

Alan Ford, Canal Zone Olympian, Dies
by Jeanne Stough

Alan Ford, swimming champion and Olympic medal winner, died Nov 3, 2008 in Sarasota, Florida. He was born in the Canal Zone on December 7, 1923, where his grandfather had moved the family 16 years earlier to work on the construction of the Canal. Both his father and grandfather were awarded the Roosevelt Medal for their work building the Panama Canal. He was in Henry Grieser's *Red White & Blue Troupe*, which spawned a number of world-class swimmers. *continued page 8*



Fig. 1 First Day Cover for Summer Sports (U.S. Scott No. 3397) featuring cachet with Alan Ford



Fig. 2 Alan Ford with Jeanne Stough

Ford-Olympian

continued from page 7

On February 13, 1943, Alan Ford broke the world record that had been held by Johnny Weissmuller, who played Tarzan in many films. He became the first swimmer to break 50 seconds for 100 yards when he was 21 years old. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he moved back to New Haven, and after six months of training, he made the U.S. Olympic team and won a silver medal in the 100-meter freestyle.

In 1966 Alan Ford was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. In 2000 he furnished the photography that went into the first day cover illustrated in Fig. 1. The front and back of his Olympic medal are shown in the cachet on the cover in Fig. 1.

For readers with the ability to view it, there is a video clip of Alan Ford as a swimmer at the Hall of Fame site: http://www.ishof.org/video_archive/swimming/alan_ford.htm.

In a contemporary picture, Ford is shown in Fig. 2 with his Balboa High School classmate and CZSG member Jeanne Stough.

(Ed: in a private communication to Alan Bentz, Alan Ford referred to Jeanne Stough as "being Panama/CZ number one booster.")



Fig. 3 Alan Ford with Bill Zemer in 1939

In Fig. 3 Alan Ford is pictured with his best pal Bill Zemer at the Balboa swimming pool. Bill Zemer is the father of David Zemer, current President of the CZSG.

Those wishing to read more can visit the Swimming World Magazine site http://www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/lane9/news/14486.asp.

Vice President's Report

continued from page 1

As mentioned in President Zemer's report in the 3rd quarter of 2008, Tom Brougham's list of Type III overprints with dates of use is on the Web, where it was posted for information and comment. It is a precursor to Tom's CZSG Handbook No. 15 on Type III Overprints. The best attended Northeast meeting of the year was at STAMPSHOW 2008 in Hartford. Fourteen attended the meeting and four other members were at the Show, but missed the meeting. The next meeting will be at the Northeast Federation PHILATELIC SHOW 2009 in Boxborough MA on May 2nd.

I recently heard from Fred Sill, a former Zonian, who now lives in Brazil. He sent a copy of *Harper's Weekly* from 24 February 1906. It contained two photos of the burning of $385,000 worth of stamps. Not finding anything in the Cumulative *CZP* Index, I was prepared to write an article on it. Fortunately Richard Bates, representing the "corporate memory", remembered writing an article on the subject for the *CZP* in 1989. (*CZP* 92:15-6) His article had far more detail with related documentation dating back to 1904.

The 1906 *Harper's Weekly*, article also included three photographs of "The latest…scenes in Panama." Shown were the Panama Police at Colon; Cass St. in Colon in the "negro quarter"; and Broadway in Culebra. The streets were muddy and full of debris.

These scenes brought back memories of a book I read in the '30s called *Headhunters on the Amazon: Seven Years of Exploration and Adventure,* Garden City NY (1925). The author, F. W. Up de Graff, went to the West Coast of South America via Panama circa 1897. He described the streets of Panama as "open sewers," as they must have been before the U.S. insisted on taking over sanitation, and providing clean drinking water. Up until that time, clean water was obtained from springs on Taboga Island and peddled in Panama.

Many things stand out in my memory of that book. The author climbed over the Andes. While crossing the Andes, at about 14,000 feet, the natives cautioned him to be quiet so as not to start it raining. Thinking to dispel their superstition, he fired his gun, and the supersaturated air started raining, and made the trail treacherous, and the guides angry. He worked his way down the Amazon over a period of several years. When his shoes wore out, he repeatedly dipped his feet into raw rubber latex until he had fashioned a perfectly fitting boot. Upon removing it he experienced the painful pulling out of all the hairs on his leg.

He lived for a while with the headhunters, and learned the secret of how human heads were shrunk. As a boy I had seen many of these grotesque objects, and everyone wondered how the Jivaro Indians did it. You can look on the Web and find out how it is done: www.head-hunter.com/account.html.

These reminiscences are non-philatelic, but were triggered by the same article in *Harper's*.

What is it?

continued from page 6

The cover is addressed to Bienkowski in Culebra, and the reverse side (not shown) has a Culebra receiving marking and several HFC (Coleman) guarantee markings.

Close examination of the stamps on the front reveals that one is a little different. That stamp is shown in Fig. 2; a significant part of a second CANAL ZONE hand stamp can be seen.

The question is, "What is it?," or perhaps more aptly, "What do we call it?" *Scott* is not particularly helpful, as the only listing that comes close is No. 2a CANAL ZONE double.

CZ Stamps also does not provide much help, as there is no additional minor listing that fits this stamp, at least not at the time it was published in 1986. In this case, because the second CANAL ZONE impression is not complete, the argument that it is not a Canal Zone No. 2a wins out. It probably does not warrant a separate *Scott* listing. Listing in the checklist should follow as No. 2 with partial second CANAL ZONE overprint. However identified, it is a spectacular variety.

It is fun to imagine the stamp to the right of the stamp in Fig. 2. It could be a similar variety, partial second overprint, or a different variety partial overprint. If the former, and it existed as a pair, it would be described as pair with three overprints which might warrant listing in *Scott*.

CZSG Regional Meeting

continued from page 3

Gary Weiss showed a Canal Zone Hunting Permit obtained recently on eBay. The value of seeking expertization on valuable purchases was discussed, including a check for regumming and reperforation as well as authenticity.

Articles scheduled to appear in future issues of the *CZP* were discussed, and scans that will be used were examined. These include plate varieties and the new series of articles on people who were prominent in the history of the Canal Zone. This issue includes articles on an early CZ cover preparer A. Bienkowski, Olympian Alan Ford, and Canal builder Gen. George Goethals.

The problem faced in authenticating *Scott*-listed varieties was discussed, with two viewpoints expressed: 1) determining whether the item satisfies the requirements for a *Scott*-listed variety, versus 2) a clear statement of the characteristics of the stamp and what gave rise to them. Future articles will explore both sides of issues such as shifted overprints as varieties or freaks.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of fresh water requirements as a limitation for the Third Set of Locks megaproject that will expand the Panama Canal.

R.D. Bates

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Mule Killed, Apparently by Crocodile, in Chagres River

An American mule owned by the Supply Department and used by the contractor on Limon plantation was killed recently while trying to ford the Chagres River near the plantation. When about halfway across the river he began to kick and scream and soon went down. His body was found later, upstream, with one foreleg and shoulder chewed away. It is assumed that he was killed by a crocodile.

Canal Record
March 2, 1921.

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Plate Varieties on Canal Zone Stamps
Part III. Double Transfer on Scott No. J15
by Richard D. Bates

This article continues the series on plate varieties begun in 2008. (See *CZP* 168:30-2 and 169:40-1, 44) The item in question is a J15, created by overprinting POSTAGE DUE on a Canal Zone No. 71, which in turn had been created by overprinting a U.S. Scott No. 552 with the flat A CANAL ZONE Overprint. The discovery was first published by Lawson Entwistle in 1986 (See *CZP* 81:29,31) and included a hand-drawn sketch of the item, but not an illustration of the actual stamp. That drawing was enough to go on to find the plate number and position by searching the positions on the relevant plate proofs in the vault at the National Postal Museum. The author is most appreciative of the help in searching the plate proofs provided by Jim O'Donnell at the NPM, and for the encouragement by Cheryl Ganz, Thomas Lera, and Daniel Piazza for several projects being undertaken at NPM. Appreciation is expressed to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum for the scans of the plate proofs included in this article.

Lawson's original article is entitled, "A Two-Way Double Transfer on the U.S. 1c Franklin of 1922," *Scott* No. J15. It identifies several features of the double transfer evident in the top third of the stamp, and which are visible in the plate proof illustrated below. The plate variety occurs on plate 15437 position LR 92. A partial strip from the bottom of that plate proof is illustrated in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 Position LR 91 and 92 from plate proof of Plate No. 15437

Entwistle's article highlights some other possible double transfers on Canal Zone stamps he felt were to be discovered, using Max Johl's *The United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century, Vol. III* as a potential source. As noted in earlier articles in this series, *French's Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps* is also a major source of information.

An expanded view of the top part of the stamp in position LR 92 is shown in Fig. 2 above the image from a normal stamp for comparison, hopefully making spotting the characteristics of this partial double transfer on pos. 92 easier.

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Pitcairn Island Covers
Spink Shreves Galleries Sale, January 2009

At first glance the auction that occurred in late January might not catch the eye of a Canal Zone collector. The Spink Shreves Galleries Sale - 108 contained several collections, but the one to note is "The David Flaat Collection of Antarctic Stamps & Postal History," stated to be one of the finest collections of its kind to be offered in years, including many unique items – related areas such as Falkland Islands, Pitcairn Islands and Tristan da Cunha.

There was one Canal Zone stamp in this part of the sale, and it was one of about 15 Pitcairn Island covers. Other covers had Canal Zone postal markings, and several were addressed to Gerald Bliss, or members of his family. What connection is there between the Canal Zone and Pitcairn Island, and what role did Gerald Bliss play?

A search of past issues of the *CZP* reveals a prior short article concerning Mr. Bliss and the Pitcairn Islands stamp issued in his honor, and describes how he came to be involved in mail to and from the Pitcairn Islands. (See *CZP* 142: 11)



Fig. 1 1922 cover to Gerald D. Bliss



Fig. 2 1924 Pitcairn Island Cover with rare marking



Fig. 3 1925 cover with copy of Scott No. 96

continued page 11

Plate Varieties

continued from page 10



Fig. 2 Comparison of upper parts of Position LR 92 (top) and 91 (below) from plate 15437.

Though all the lines in the image of the top portion of position 92 reveal some doubling or thickening, the doubling is most easily visible in the circles in the upper left and upper right corner, and on the vertical line to the right of the upper left circle, and the horizontal line below the upper right circle. To aid the eye in spotting these differences, the upper left of pos. 92 is expanded in Fig. 3.

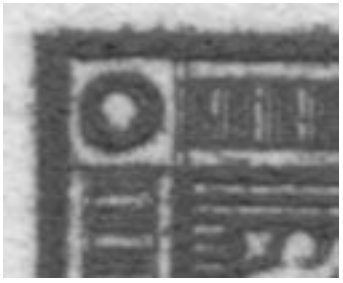


Fig. 3 Expanded view of the upper left corner of pos. LR92 from plate 15437

This double transfer plate variety should occur on both *Scott* Nos. 71 (first printing) and J15 as plate 15437 was used for both, and the LR panes were overprinted in each case. The author has examples of neither of the actual Canal Zone stamps, and would appreciate hearing from any reader who does. A high quality scan, or the opportunity to make one would be appreciated.

Plate varieties are a relatively little explored area of Canal Zone philately. The goal of this series of articles is to introduce the world of plate varieties, especially those on Bureau-issued U.S. stamps overprinted for use in the Canal Zone, acknowledging that the number of plate varieties on Canal Zone stamps is small, spotting them is difficult, and they rarely are listed in *Scott*.

Pitcairn Island Covers

continued from page 10

Additionally, the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau web site (http://www.stamps.gov.pn/ann-firstPitcairnIssue.htm) reveals a good bit about the history of Pitcairn Islands mail in the early part of the twentieth century.

The covers in the sale reveal a great deal. Early on, getting mail to or from Pitcairn Island was difficult, with most of it carried by passing ship captains who paid the postage to send the mail onward at their first port of call. Frequently such letters carried a hand-stamped cachet "Posted in [or at] Pitcairn Island / No Stamps Available" as the first Pitcairn Islands postage stamps were not issued until 1940. Stamps of New Zealand were sold and available for use from 1927 to 1940. From 1921 to 1926 it was agreed by the British and New Zealand governments in 1921 that both countries would accept and deliver unstamped mail from Pitcairn. The concession consisted of a waiving of the normal double surcharge on unstamped letters and reverting to the earlier postal system whereby the receiver paid for the mail.

The website states, "Attempts were made by the British early in the twentieth century to organize a postal service through the British Consul in Tahiti but only small quantities of mail appear to have been carried. Probably the most helpful measure was that introduced on a semi-official basis by Mr. Gerald Bliss, postmaster in the Panama Canal Zone, shortly after the canal opened in 1915. Mr. Bliss acted as unofficial agent for the inhabitants of Pitcairn for a number of years and his office became a clearing station for Pitcairn Island mail."

The lots in the 29-31 January 2009 Spink Shreves Galleries Sale included a group of five covers to the Bliss family from Pitcairn Island to the Canal Zone, 1922-23, all addressed to Mr. or Mrs. Gerald D. Bliss. The example shown in Fig. 1 realized $550; it was described as

> **"Pitcairn Isld/Free"** manuscript endorsement on YMCA imprinted cover sent via New Zealand with "Wellington/27.SP.22/N.Z." transit c.d.s., complete with letter from Fred Christian dated September 7, 1922, slight edge fault to cover at right from opening, very fine.

Other covers have a Canal Zone link because they have Canal Zone postal markings, such as the cover illustrated in Fig. 2 which realized $2200 and was described as

> **"Posted in Pitcairn Island./1924' No Stamps Available"** two line type IV cachet in black (S.G. #C9) on an exceptional cover sent to Milwaukee, Oregon and then redirected to Ocean Park, Wash., sent via the Canal Zone where rare "Mailed at Pitcairn Island./South Seas/No stamps available." three line cachet in magenta was applied, along with magenta "T" in circle postage due handstamp, "Cristobal/Aug 18 1924/C.Z." duplex postmark at right, Milwaukee transit duplex on reverse, very fine; an incredible Pitcairn cover perfect for exhibition, this being one of only two recorded covers bearing the three line red cachet which was applied in the Canal Zone on incoming mail from the Pitcairn Islands.

Figure 3 shows the cover with a copy of Scott No. 96 tied to the cover. It realized $3250 and was described as

> **"Mailed at Pitcairn Island,/South Seas./No stamps available"** three line blue cachet which is unlisted in Stanley Gibbons, on exceptional postage due cover addressed to Allston, Mass. from the famous Washburn correspondence, sent via the Canal Zone where 2c Sesquicentennial Exposition stamp with "Canal Zone" overprint was affixed paying the postage due and tied not only by "Cristobal/Oct 30 25/C.Z." c.d.s. but by the three line cachet as well, conclusively proving that this cachet was created in the Canal Zone for all incoming mail from the Pitcairn Islands, this being one of only two covers recorded with this marking, a very fine and immensely rare and important Pitcairn Island cover for the finest exhibition collection.

Illustrations courtesy of Spink Shreves Galleries (www.spinkshreves.com) located at 3100 Monticello Ave., Suite 925, Dallas, TX 75205.

2c Canal Zone Booklet Stamps

From *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*
Jan. 12, 1918
by David Zemer

When I first read the Bliss letter in the 1984 *Canal Zone Philatelist* 73: 25-6 about the Panama advertising booklet and later found that it had been published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* (Feb 18, 1911), I thought that *Mekeel's* could be a treasure trove of information about Canal Zone stamps. These weeklies contained many references to Canal Zone stamps but to my surprise I never found another reference to Panama booklet stamps and only two references to Canal Zone booklet stamps from 1909 through 1923. The first reference was covered in *CZP* 169:43 last year, and the second is included here.

From all accounts the Canal Zone booklet stamps appeared to have been very popular for customers of the Canal Zone postal service. The local Zonians did not seem to be shy about sending *Mekeel's* any new snippet of news about Canal Zone stamps but I still wonder why there was not more mention of booklet stamps in the philatelic press.

It could be that Canal Zone booklet stamps were neglected in *Mekeel's* because they were not listed for many years in *Scott*. A search of *Scott* from the 1910s to the 1940s by Roy Teixeira at the Western Philatelic Library uncovered the first listing of Canal Zone booklet stamps on page 85 in the 1943 edition. In it the 1909-1910 1c Balboa, *Scott* No. 41e, and the 2c Cordoba, *Scott* No. 42g, are each designated as a "Booklet Pane of 6." No mention is made of the difference between hand made and machine made booklet stamps.

The Scott Nos. just referred to are in the pre-1950 system; present cataloguing according to the various printings and CANAL ZONE overprints would have to wait until the Canal Zone listings were completely reclassified.

Mekeel's Article

The article below appeared on page 14 in *Mekeel's* January 12, 1918, almost 1½ years after this stamp was received in the Canal Zone and more than nine months after the Earliest Documented Usage (Larkin, *CZP* 166:11). A full pane of both the 1c and 2c cut booklet panes is shown, courtesy of Richard Larkin.

Mr. Benjamin Cadbury has shown us copies of the 2c Canal Zone on Panama stamps which we believe are from new style booklets, the stamps having two straight edges, at bottom and at one of the other sides.

The earlier booklets were, we believe, made up of regular sheet stamps with perforation on all four sides. On the stamps we have just seen, the distance between "CANAL" and "ZONE" is 7 7/8 mm.; this is the closest together we have ever seen this overprint.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News
January 12, 1918



Fig. 1 Booklet pane Scott No. 38b



Fig. 2 Booklet pane Scott No. 39c

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